

City of Gdynia – Becoming a Convert to Trolleybuses

Gdynia is a young, modern and vivid city, inhabited by about 250 000 people. With the neighbouring cities of Sopot and Gdańsk, Gdynia makes a thriving agglomeration of nearly 1 million.

Gdynia is a port city, well connected to other parts of the Europe and easily reached by car, train, bus, plane, or by sea.

The city's transport policy is aimed at solving the most important communication problems of the city in a sustainable way – by increasing bicycle use, co-modality and enhancing public transport services. The city has a modern and efficient urban transport system being easily accessible also by persons with limited mobility. The bicycle has also grown in popularity in recent years. The city is also introducing Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), which will contribute to a much more multimodal, safer, faster and greener transport in Gdynia and which demonstrates an innovative approach for Poland.

Trolleybuses in Gdynia

The trolleybus system of Gdynia is operated by Przedsiębiorstwo Komunikacji Trolejbusowej Sp. z o.o., PKT (Trolleybus Transport Company), working under commission of Gdynia's Public Transport Management Board. The city has had trolleybuses since 1943 and they have become Gdynia's pride and trademark. In 1999 the first low floor trolleybus was introduced. It was a turning point for the trolleybus system of Gdynia. From that time more and more modern low floor vehicles have been systematically appearing on Gdynia's streets.

To introduce more low floor vehicles, in 2004 PKT has itself started to converted diesel buses to trolleybuses. 27 of those trolleybuses were introduced by April 2010. No. 28 will be introduced shortly. Today, Gdynia is still investing in its trolleybus system.





Main activities in *Trolley*

Optimising Energy Use

Gdynia, based on its wide experience, will develop the economically best diesel-to-trolleybus conversion techniques. The cost of such converted trolleybus is only 25% of the cost of a new trolleybus. On the basis of an analysis of the rolling stock in Gdynia and a subsequent comparative study on technical and operational readiness and energy saving potentials of other CE fleets a handbook on bus conversion will be elaborated.

These project outputs will result in increased competitive conditions of trolleybus systems for other trolleybus operators, in particular in Central Europe and will be the know how

for those who are thinking of introducing trolleybuses.

Reshaping Image

Constant efforts need to be continued in order to highlight the advantages of trolleybuses even in trolleybus cities. Trolleybuses often have a bad reputation of being slower and less reliable than buses. To fight against this wrong image that applies for mostly throughout Central Europe is a main task of Gdynia within the Trolley project.

Local promotion and information campaigns will be run and a tool kit will be developed which demonstrates soft, low-budget measures for the effective promotion of trolleybuses in cities.



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